





## OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 27, 1879.

### WHEAT.

In Baltimore—wheat market steady. March and spot, No. 2, \$1.12; April \$1.13; May \$1.13; Pennsylvania, No. 2, \$1.14. In Harrisonburg 97 to \$1.

### LEGISLATIVE DOINGS THIS WEEK.

The Senate on Monday passed a bill providing that the salary of Commonwealth Attorney shall not exceed \$600.

The specific license tax for the sale of liquor, has been reduced from \$75 to \$50, and from \$150 to \$100, such tax to be paid in advance.

Dr. Ruffner and the Board of Education have been exonerated from the charge of having withheld certificates from teachers, who would not subscribe for the Virginia Educational Journal.

In the Senate an amendment to the Moffett bill was adopted, requiring one fifth of the tax under the act to be paid in lawful money of the U. S., for the benefit of free schools. Also an amendment giving one third of the fine in cases of violation of the law by the seller, to the informer.

In the House on Wednesday, Judge Allen offered an amendment to the debt bill, similar to Mr. Henry's amendment adopted at the late session, except that the figure at which loan certificates may be issued and sold by the State in the event of a deficiency of interest, or other claims shall be not less than seventy five, instead of eighty cents on the dollar, said certificates to be receivable for taxes. Judge Allen made a very able speech in favor of this amendment, and on Thursday it passed by a vote of 64 to 50. Gen. Echols being among those who voted in favor of it.

"Oliver Twist" is Cameron's favorite play.

When the electric light supercedes gas, Rockingham delegates will be deprived of opportunities of jumping into notoriety.

Widow Oliver, widow Butler and the extra session of Congress enlivened Washington, life during the sombre season of Lent.

Matters are so quiet and peaceful during the absence of our double extra Legislators, we are of those who would favor a perpetual session of the assembly.

Grant has been riding three elephants at a time in India, thereby sustaining his reputation as the boss ring performer, at home or abroad. One elephant left his trunk open decided to join the procession a second time.

Before Congress adjourns some steps should be taken to put a stop to the high-handed outrages of Judge Rives of Virginia.—Washington Gazette.

We must wait for a River rat of his decisions and then start him on horse back for Patagonia.

One of Simon Cameron's widows gave him "toad straw tea," and now the people of Pennsylvania want to know upon what "toad straw tea" his son Don feeds, that he has grown so independent as to vote for Butler of South Carolina and against Corbin.

Sitting Bull can't stand it any longer, so he contemplates a scalp-bag in Dakota, as soon as the grass grows high enough for his ponies to nibble. When Grant was President our noble roops were kept out of danger in southern sunny climes, but now since they are exposed to the rigors of Dakota and the raids of sitting Bull, here is nothing to prevent the Indians from getting hurt.—What the country needs is a strong government.

At a joint Democratic caucus consisting of committees of the House and Senate held on Saturday last, it was decided to attach the repeal of obnoxious election laws to the appropriation bills. A suggestion by Mr. Springer providing for the adoption of existing English statute of George II, which prohibits the presence of any soldier within two miles of a voting place on the day of election, except to relieve guard or go to the polls and vote. It met with much favor and will probably be incorporated into an election law.

The re-election of Sam'l J. Randall of Pennsylvania, as Speaker of the House of Representatives after a hard fought battle with Mr. Blackburn, was one of the wisest acts the Democrats could have performed. The election of Blackburn would have been the signal for a revival of the sectional battle cries of the Radicals, which of late have been fast approaching total impotency, so far as "firing the Northern heart" is concerned. The re-election of a cool, clear-headed and able leader, all of which Mr. Randall is the embodiment, falls like a wet blanket on the Mexicanizing stalwarts. They are mad because the Democrats failed to do something foolish when they had such a fine opportunity.

## THE NEW RAILROAD.

Col. Petrekin, chief engineer of the Potomac & Ohio Railroad, with a strong corps of assistants, is now engaged along the Elk river, Kanawha county, West Virginia, surveying the route for this important highway. A large force under Maj. T. K. McCann, a well known contractor, is at work on the grading between Charleston and the river. There will be no halt in the prosecution of this enterprise, the financial arrangements having been perfected for the prompt payment of all expenses as they are incurred.—Large shipments of supplies are being made from Philadelphia. Commissary and supply boats are being fitted up by the company for the Elk river in connection of the work. It is expected that the first section of twenty miles of road will be in operation within ten months, when the development of the canal coal fields and the forests of magnificent timber will begin. The road will be self-sustaining from the start, and as each mile is added the business development in this rich section will exceed most sanguine expectations. The survey will be pushed to the Virginia line, a distance of two hundred and twenty-five miles, as speedily as possible. It is supposed that the most practical route across the North mountains will be found through Briery Branch Gap, which is about the centre of the Anthracite fields. This encouraging prospect for an air line road from the Ohio to the Potomac, through the heart of West Virginia's most precious treasures, crossing this favored Valley at its centre, and passing through the Blue Ridge and Piedmont section to Tidewater at Quantico, which will be the great outlet for West Virginia and the Western Narrow Gauge roads now springing into existence rapidly, will be most gratifying to everybody in this section.

The entire system of narrow gauge roads throughout the West will be dependent upon the Potomac and Ohio for an outlet to the Atlantic seaboard, so there is no reason why this route should not become one of the most important highways of transportation between the East and the West. There is already a narrow gauge road in an advanced stage of completion between Cincinnati and Charleston which will connect with the Potomac and Ohio.

The improved feeling in iron interests is rapidly forcing attention to our great mineral resources and enterprises for their development will find willing support. The claims of our section and State have had few, but fortunately persistent advocates. If perseverance to the victorious end entitles the worker to the crown, it should be remembered to whom this honor is due. But as actions speak louder than words we shall wait further developments, and at the proper time lay before our people a history of the great work involving unremitting application and thorough familiarizing with the mineralogy, topography and geology of the Virginia before any organization of capital could be expected. All these obstacles have been surmounted, and to-day the iron and coal kings of Pennsylvania are looking toward our mineral fields as the great base of operations in the near future, and are learning the lesson of our undeveloped wealth from the advocate of our resources who has risen up for the occasion. One who is eminently capable and possessed of an unflinching purpose to conquer a purpose from which there has been no wavering, even during the darkest hours of panic and depression.

We shall be glad to keep our readers informed of the progress of this work from time to time, feeling assured that there is no territory in America possessing greater inducements to investors, and that this fact will be appreciated more fully as investigation progresses.

The bell punch for registering drinks sold in bar-rooms has been adopted by the Legislature of Connecticut. One member of the House estimated that the bell punch would pay the Treasury of that State, \$1,072,000 per annum. If that is true, then Virginia "tipplers" may be considered iron-clad temperance men in comparison with Connecticut people. But then it is so cold up there.

The Democratic Congress is economizing in labor expenses about the Capitol. There is room for retrenchment, and it is to be hoped that some regulation will be adopted to prevent Senators or members from drawing four years pay for sixty-five days service, as Senator Sharon, of California did a short time since.

The contract for the sale and transfer of the James River Canal has been approved by the State authorities and the purchasers, and work will be commenced at an early day.

In the U. S. Senate on Monday, Mr. Whyte introduced a bill for the payment of advances made to the General Government by Maryland and Virginia in 1812.

After a week's effort a jury has been empaneled in the Pointexter-Curtis case at Richmond, and the trial is now progressing.

The passage in the House on Monday by a vote of 76 to 50 (it having already passed the Senate) of the Compromise bill for the settlement of the State debt, will be hailed by all who have the State's welfare at heart, as a most acceptable deliverance from the chaos into which all the internal affairs of the Commonwealth had been thrown by the unceasing agitation and unsettled condition of this vexed question. Antipathies between men and factions have widened and grown deeper from year to year, until the very life of the State seemed to be in danger. All enterprises have been prostrate, industries have languished, business relations with the outside world were stagnant, and it seemed as if a blight had settled over the face of the old State. Now that the canes of all these destroying influences are about to be removed, we hope further agitation will cease, and that personal ambition will prompt no one to withhold cheerful acquiescence in a result reached after a struggle costing so much, and in which all have endeavored to arrive at a just, equitable and honorable adjustment with our creditors. Prosperity will surely follow the permanent removal of this question from the hustings, the rostrum, assembly, and court. Outside capital heretofore frightened off to other fields of investment, will come within our borders and inaugurate developments and improvements that will lighten our burdens and recuperate our energies.

### THE VOTE ON THE DEBT BILL.

Below we give in full the vote on the passage of the McCulloch debt settlement Bill, which the House of Delegates on Monday last, which we copy from the proceedings as published in the Richmond State:

At 12 o'clock M. the special order came up—Senate bill No. 1 for the settlement of the State debt. At 3 o'clock the vote was taken with the following result:

Ayes—Messrs. Adams, Anderson, Ashton, Athlison, Bernard, Bland, Bock, Bohannon, Brown, Butler, Coghill, Cox, Crutcher, Curlett, Dance, Davis, Dick, Echols, Edmunds, Edwards, Fier, Finney, Gooch, Graves, Gray, Green, Hall, Hanger, Hardesty, Healy, Henkel, Henry, Henson, Hiner, Hunter, R. D. James, Abel T. Johnson, James D. Johnston, Jordan, Kryser, Kyle, Lovell, Luck, McCraw, McMillen, Monroa, Moorman, Mushback, Myers, Nelson, Oglesby, Pitts, Popham, Pulliam, Ragland, Reese, Robinson, Sandridge, Shaum, Shelburne, Shriver, E. H. Smith, Wm. B. Taliferro, Warner T. Taliferro, Trout, George Walker, Wm. M. Walker, Wallace, Walsh, Waring, Watson, Whitacre, Thos. M. White, Wilkinson, Wingfield, Mr. Speaker.—76.

Noes—Messrs. Akers, Barbour, Busham, John R. Carter, Chase, Coleman, Crank, Davidson, Dickerson, Dickerson, Evans, Farr, Fannin, Fowler, Frazier, Fry, Fulkerson, Fulton, Griggs, H. H. Harrison, Renben N. Harrison, Harvie, W. T. James, Kelly, LeCoy, Lady, Lee, McCabe, McCall, McCannell, McDaniel, Michie, Moffett, Parrish, Powell, Ryland, Shumate, J. Howard Smith, Southward, Spessard, Stevens, Andrew J. Taylor, Wm. Taylor, Van Lear, Joseph Walker, Smith, J. R. White, Witter, Witten, Wright, Young—50.

The statement was made the other day to the effect that the Ancient Mariner, Colonel Richard W. Thompson, acting Secretary of the Navy, had invited ex Senator Sargent, of California, to take a four months' cruise in a United States naval ship, and that with characteristic sang froid, the California had accepted. Having seen no contradiction we take it for granted that this insignificant outrage upon an overburdened country is about to be perpetrated. So long as the Naval Committee of the Senate is made up of some properly, have been invited to investigate our ferocious war ships as a panio passenger, but now that he is no more than any other citizen, we protest against this piece of favoritism.—It is bad enough to have a tramp like Grant junketing about the world at public expense and the custom should be broken up before it becomes prevalent. If Mr. Thompson attempts to carry out his scheme of treating Citizen Sargent to this unauthorized spree at the expense of the people, we shall promptly move his impeachment.—Baltimore Gazette.

Trade in all the large centres is looking up, crop prospects are good and factories of all kinds are increasing their products. Since it became an assured fact that the Republican party was turning its face to the wall for its last desperate mortification, the credit and business of the country have steadily improved. We are willing to give the bogus Administration credit for "the craps," but the improvement in credit and business is mainly due to the approaching demise of the Radical party.—Wash. Post.

The noble work of seating Democrats in the chairs to which Republicans were elected will now go on with beautiful celerity and regularity. There are abundant precedents in favor of seating any Democrat who swears he wants a seat.—N. Y. Tribune.

Undoubtedly, all of which were set by Radical Houses. Like the patriotic men they are, however, the Democrats will refuse to take any advantage of said precedents.—Wash. Post.

There are no colored men in the Forty-sixth House. The fact is not of good omen to the country.—Cin. Com.

Why didn't you elect one? There are one hundred and twenty-eight seats filled by Republicans—so called—including Robeson. There is Orth, for instance, whom you could easily trade off for a colored man. Don't be deaf. We don't see that anybody is holding you.—Washington Post.

## Bishop Keane's Prayer in the House of Delegates.

By invitation of the Clerk of the House, Bishop Keane, of the Catholic Church, yesterday morning opened the session of the body with prayer. The Catholic clergy have more than once, but as for the oldest habitue of the Capitol can remember no one before ever accepted.

The Bishop came into the hall in pontifical robes—which he had put on in the clerk's office.

In his prayer he said:

O Almighty and Eternal God, we stand as supplicants in Thy Divine Presence to ask of Thee all needed graces and blessings. We know and profess that Thou art our God, and that we are Thy creatures. We know and profess that we are dependent on Thee for our being, and for every moment of our existence. Thou art the Giver of every good gift, and to Thee must all Thy creatures look for all they need. Heighly, then, and earnestly do we implore Thee to grant us Thy blessing and Thy aid, that we may worthily fulfill the important and responsible duties which Thy providence imposes upon us. Grant that we may never forget Thy presence and Thy all-seeing eye. Grant that we may conduct all our deliberations in the sense of our responsibility to Thee. Grant that we may weigh all our decisions in the scales of Thy truth and Thy justice. Grant that all our actions may redound to Thy honor and glory, and to the welfare of our people. We ask it of Thee for the love of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. [Then the Lord's Prayer.]—Rich. Dispatch, March 19th.

The scheme to carry the sedition of the Republican party out to California next fall to welcome Grant back to the land which he saved is still being gradually worked up. The mammoth cheap excursion from Omaha to San Francisco over the Pacific railways is said to have the sanction of the leading Republicans in Congress and the bosses of the Grant movement throughout the country. Negotiations are being carried on between the publishers of the movement and the managers of the Pacific railways and a plan, it is thought, will soon be perfected by which 50,000 loyal and patriotic men will be carried to San Francisco at the rate of about one cent per mile. The hotels and eating houses in California are very much interested in the matter. It is believed that a rate little more than \$5 for the round trip could be secured between eastern points and Omaha, while for the round trip from Omaha to San Francisco \$20 will probably be charged, making the railroad fare the entire trip from any point in the country about \$25. With such a grand reception and ovation the Republican party could not refuse Grant a nomination. As we intimated the other day, if this scheme is carried out the Democrats will probably tear up the Pacific roads after the excursion trains reach California, blockade the passes of the Sierras and keep Grant and the active Republican strikers on the Pacific coast until after the Presidential election. This would insure the loss of California to the Democracy but Ohio, Illinois and several of the Northwestern States would be secured by the strategy.—Ex.

Because the Democrats in the Senate declined the other day to permit Mr. Edmunds and the Republican minority to take charge of the business of the body and direct it to suit themselves the Boston Advertiser starts its solemn readers with a head-line of this character: "An Exhibition of Old-Time Democratic Arrogance." The theory prevails in New England, and in several other sections of the Republic as well, that the Democrats have no rights that patriots and senators are bound to respect. They are under stood to be in Washington by sufferance and, therefore, any little inclination toward self assertion is looked upon as impertinence and arrogance. When a Republican officeholder is lifted out of a snug place to make room for a Democrat the cordwainers in New England meet together and talk about the growing nature of the "outrage" and when the Democratic Legislature reverses a Republican remedy a howl goes up about "revolution." It is treason for Mr. Thurman to blow his nose in the Senate Chamber, sedition for Southern Democrats to wear soft hats in Washington and an insult to the American Eagle for tuncouth Democrats to lounge about the various committee-rooms of the Capitol and talk about amending the tariff on fish-hooks. Perhaps the average New Englander will become reconciled in due time.—Balt. Gazette.

It is objected by the Republican press that the repeal doctrines of the Democrats would reduce the Federal Supervisors to mere overseers, having no authority to correct the wrongs that might take place before their eyes. If this were true it would be no reproach. The Federal Supervisor has no duty except at Federal elections—elections held for choice of members of Congress and for President. The House of Representatives, however, is the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members, and the Federal Supervisors would be in the best position to obtain accurate evidence of what happened at the polls and the registration and the count or canvass. If the Supervisors were really selected to see fair play, intelligent and responsible men, one from each party, they might exert a healthy influence. But this is not what the Republicans want. They don't want fairness at elections but opportunities to count in their own men. They want the Supervisors to have a power destructive of the independence of the voter—the Deputy Marshal to have the power to arrest without warrant. The shortest and safest way out of the difficulty, therefore, is to strip them of all power.—Baltimore Gazette.

Reports from the wheat crops in various portions of Augusta county are not very encouraging. Some have been blown out and all of it set back by dry weather. Rain is much needed.—Valley Virginia.

Chilli and Bolivia are preparing for war.

## Affairs Abroad.

LONDON, March 24.—The vote on the motion for an inquiry into the affair of the conversion of the 5 per cent. rentes, which was rejected by the French Chamber of Deputies on Saturday last, was 301 to 78. The Times Paris correspondent says: This is a considerable success for M. Leon Say and it is understood that President Grevy has given notice of his satisfaction. The Chamber of Deputies was struck with the sincerity of M. Leon Say's explanation. The conversion affair is useless as a weapon against the cabinet.

A deputation from the free-trade chambers of commerce has waited on M. Waddington, president of the council. He was less affirmative in the free-trade sense than M. Wiard, minister of commerce, and in advertising to American competition rather sought to justify the apprehension of the protectionists on the subject of free trade. The delegates, however, pointing out that the economic attitude of America was discussed, modified or confirmed. M. Waddington did not insist but hastened to declare that the government was favorable to treaties of commerce and free trade and would do its utmost to solve the economic questions in a liberal and far-sighted spirit.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE KILLED BY AN EARTH-QUAKE.

The Times reports that there were shocks of earthquake in Northern Persia during Saturday and Sunday. Minneh was much damaged and the adjacent villages of Tark and Mannan were totally destroyed. Out of 1,100 inhabitants only a few escaped death. Persia, March 24.—Minister Ferry, addressing his departmental staff, declared that the republic would respect the rights of conscience and religious liberty, but would insist upon complete and formal observance of the concordat.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR OFFICE.

ELECTION, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1879.

For County Treasurer.

We are authorized to announce SAMUEL R. STERLING as a candidate for re-election to the office of COUNTY TREASURER of Rockingham County, at the election to be held on May 22, 1879. [mar 27-10]

For Commonwealth's Attorney.

We are authorized to announce HENRY V. STRAYER as a candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockingham County at the election in May, 1879. [mar 27-10]

We are authorized to announce GEO. G. GRATTAN as a candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockingham County at the election in May, 1879. [mar 27-10]

We are authorized to announce J. N. LIGGETT as a candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockingham County at the May election, 1879. [mar 27-10]

We are authorized to announce WILLIAM SHANDS, as a candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney for Rockingham County, at the election to be held May 22, 1879. [mar 27-10]

For Commissioner of the Revenue.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

TO THE VOTERS OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY: I respectfully announce myself as a candidate for re-election to the office of COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT. If elected, I will endeavor to discharge the duties of the office with fidelity and to the satisfaction of the people. [mar 27-10]

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT. I have with me numerous known to my most intimate acquaintances, and being unable to perform manual labor, I respectfully ask the support of my fellow-citizens. If elected, I will endeavor to discharge the duties of the office with fidelity and to the satisfaction of the people. [mar 27-10]

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